



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Agenda for the Wards 2 and 3
Thursday, October 13, 2016
McClure Multi-Generational Center/Champlain Senior Center, 241 N. Winooski Ave
Draft

Steering Committee Present: Ryan McLaren Ward 3, Barbara McGrew Ward 3, Andrew Champagne Ward 2, Tony Redington Ward 2, Patrick Johnson Ward 2

Start time 6:30pm

Public Comment

Tony Redington-redesign for Champlain Parkway meeting will be held in early Nov. The meeting will work on bringing a proposal to bring to Mayor. The proposal will reduce parkway cost by 25% and will include 2 acres of land for business innovation and 2 acres for preservation.

Bill Diaz-Chaplin of VFW of Winooski. Consider supporting veterans, help improve their lives and get to know the people who served this country.

BTV Great Streets Initiative, Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, CEDO

Project will improve corridor in main street and city hall park. Public meeting will be held on November 16th, 6:30pm, City Hill in Contois Hall. Great Street has a website where the public can leave comments <http://greatstreetsbtv.com/> This project started out of 18+ different plans and taking all the planning processes over the 5+ years and making it into one great plan. Parts of the plan is to standardize storm water and curb extension depending on locations. The plans need to add to vibrancy, walkability, durability, functional and keep in state and federal standards. These are the standards that will be developed over months and be done by January 2017. This is 6 block project.

Burlington Town Center Project, Don Sinex

City Council passed the zoning law amendment creating a new an overlay district. Mayor decided to place this zoning law on the ballot as question for the voters to decide. Overall felt that this is a good decision because this brings a conclusion and this will be a firm decision. The zoning is a good thing for unique projects. When developer buy a piece of real estate they start from a framework and working with the City there will be other factors that come up such as the two public streets. This becomes a process to redesign. There is no plan B for this project. This project has been worked on for two years. If the Tax Increment Finance does not pass, then the public streets won't happen. The cost of an underground garage and removal of soil will be 3x times more in cost to develop the project. Looking at using some of the existing garage to offset the height. This project has multiple uses and will generate

revenue. Timing of financing is good and this is a low interest rate. In the project there is 55 Affordable units. This is only rental housing. Efficiencies are studios one bed room and two bed-room. This project will be Gold LEED, sustainable and the design will still need to go through DRB.

Crosswalk Improvements on North Avenue, Martin Lee and Roger Dickerson

This project is funded 80% by VTrans and 20% by the City 20%. New crosswalks are on Wards St., North Ave and Village Green, Gosse Court and Green Acres Drive. Project is developing a conceptual plan and there will be a public process. At the top of Ward St. on North Ave. crosswalk will have a safer crossing. Will install flashing beacons on both sides of N. Ave. Will also have a curb extension which will provide a better line of sight (20ft) and minimize parking next to the crosswalk. On the other streets further down North Ave. will also install yield markings to yield to pedestrians. There are two locations that are going to have more intense pedestrian crosswalk. This is not new technology. Federal Highway has been established for these types of devices.

Mayor Miro Weinberger, November Ballot Initiatives

There are 6 items on the local ballot but going to talk about 4 ballot items. 1st is general bond, 2nd is water infrastructure bond, 3rd is new zoning for downtown core, and 4th is 21 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Ballot 1 and 2 are focused on infrastructure. The water infrastructure is 75 years old. 6 firetrucks are old and also need to finish bike path. This is a 50-million-dollar plan. 1 needs a 67% yes vote to pass. The City will not be coming back for more bonding for at least 5 years. Although there is some uncertainty around storm water because there are regulatory changes and this does not include the schools because they are separate from the City's budget. Memorial Auditorium is not part of this capital bond. Before doing bonds for Memorial we will need to have public process on how we will want to know what we want to do with this space. Items 3 and 4 is about the downtown core. #4 is TIF investment. Feel this is a rare and outstanding opportunity for the City. Property there now is a 70's declining mall that is not keeping up with the commerce side. From the project there will be an increase of retail, keeping well-paying jobs here, and create a massive revenue to city and state. Project will have environmental benefits will need to be green LEED Gold, heating and cooling is more efficient, also there will be less vehicle trips for those living down town will lower carbon foot print. This is a huge win for affordability and this keeps inclusionary zoning in place forever. Burlington has used TIF to change for the better such as in the Waterfront district. If it gets to the final development agreement with the developer, what will come out is a new operation run out of the City for people from all backgrounds to get job training. If voted yes, we will have to flesh out final agreements and the project still needs go through DRB. This year the City double the Housing Trust Fund to have families stay in the homes. The City was instrumental in the creation of Bright Street Housing and will continue to support affordable housing. 2 years ago the project did not have storm water management, public streets, livable wage jobs. TIF will cover 8 blocks all will be broadly public infrastructure.

Fire Department Bond Initiatives - Chief Steven Locke, BFD

Chief Steven Locke- Item #1 is Capital bond and includes replacing 4 firetrucks. Trucks have over 100k and sometimes trucks are out service and need to borrow trucks from South Burlington. Also Item 2 of the waterline is unable to deliver water flow due to the rotting infrastructure. This inhibits the quality of services that can be deliver.

Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Brownfields Program

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) administers the Brownfield Program that offer site planning assessment and cleanup planning assistance for properties that are vacant or underutilized because of potential petroleum or hazardous substance contamination. CCRPC can assist property owners and potential developers by conducting environmental studies and/or draft site clean-up plans and cost estimates. Help identify sources of potential funding to clean up and redevelop the property to provide assurance to redevelop in urban environment. For more information, contact Dan Albrecht 802-861-0133 or dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org
<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/>

Coalition for a Livable City

Video-Google Earth perspective of development not the overlay.

The people that are saying yes on 3 and 4 are saying they can't get LEED, storm water management, affordable housing without this project. In the past Bernie Sanders wanted to build on the waterfront and this got voted down and out of this the public got what we have today, a better waterfront project. This is a bad deal for affordable housing and misuse of TIF funding. Traditionally the developer pays for their own streets. Once this is voted down the CLC will offer its contracting services to the developer. CLC is made up of professional; engineers, graphic designers, lawyers, and teachers. Having TIF go towards building the streets is a misuse where it should be going to helping to improve other infrastructure in the city. There are two types of Affordable housing; one is section 8 and then one is inclusionary housing. With existing projects there is 2500 units and only affordable 500 units of subsidies units. Most of what the Mayor is talking about is inclusionary. We want to see more affordable housing for families and seniors. TIF is not bad but in this way it's going to be for the developer to pay for his road. There was a feasibility study done and all the numbers are adapted. It might be feasible but the public doesn't have the numbers. Without the numbers the public can't be informed to vote on the TIF. Filed for Freedom of information Act but was denied. Middle class and poor people are being driven out of the City. This is a small City and there will also be gentrification of local business too. CLC will be canvassing and has a Facebook page. www.clcburlington.org

End time 9:10pm

Notes submitted by Phet Keomanyvanh

Community Development Specialist-CEDO

